

is my intention to file cloture on that nomination, as well.

CLOTURE MOTION

I now send a cloture motion to the desk on the comprehensive immigration bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 414, S. 2611: a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

William H. Frist, Arlen Specter, Larry Craig, Mel Martinez, Orrin Hatch, Gordon Smith, John Warner, Pete Domenici, George V. Voinovich, Ted Stevens, Craig Thomas, Thad Cochran, Judd Gregg, Lindsey Graham, Norm Coleman, Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander.

Mr. FRIST. I ask that the live quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BRETT M. KAVANAUGH TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

Mr. FRIST. I now move to proceed to executive session and the consideration of Calendar No. 632, the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar No. 632, the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Bill Frist, Arlen Specter, Saxby Chambliss, Larry Craig, Mel Martinez, Elizabeth Dole, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Ted Stevens, Craig Thomas, Thad Cochran, Chuck Grassley, Judd Gregg, Tom Coburn, Richard Shelby, Lindsey Graham, Orrin Hatch.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the live quorum be waived, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

KAVANAUGH NOMINATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the last action was filing cloture on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, the President's nominee for the DC Circuit Court of the Appeals. I have been discussing with the minority leader the nomination this morning and over the course of the day and will continue to work with him as we try to reach a time agreement with respect to getting an up-or-down vote later this week. It is because we have not been able to agree to that, that I filed cloture to ensure we have a vote on this nomination.

I expect the full Senate to vote on this nomination. I don't know exactly what the schedule will be. It will depend on the outcome of the immigration bill.

I did have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Kavanaugh today. He is an outstanding candidate, a candidate who has stellar credentials, both in the private sector and the public sector, working as counsel and adviser to the President. He has had a distinguished legal career that has had him argue before the Supreme Court and appeals courts around the country. He is a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School where he served on the law journal. He has, on three separate occasions, received the American Bar Association stamp of approval.

He was nominated 3 years ago. He has waited 3 years for the vote we will have later this week, for that fair up-or-down vote. It is time the Senate fulfills its constitutional duty, the advice and consent, by giving Mr. Kavanaugh that vote he deserves. I look forward to moving ahead on his nomination and upholding the confirmation process.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2006—Continued

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will be closing shortly, but I do want to comment briefly on the immigration bill today. I want to make a few remarks on where we are and then where we will be going.

Mr. President, we began debate on the comprehensive immigration reform before the Easter recess. The majority was at that time set to strengthen the underlying bill by having debate and amendment on the underlying bill to be able to toughen the border security aspect, but at the 11th hour, the other side said: No, we are not going to allow that open debate and amendment process. So what had come to the floor under the leadership of Chairman SPEC-

TER was a bipartisan bill that did need continued work, and that bipartisan effort was scuttled for a period of time.

The Democratic leader and I agreed to a process whereby we could bring that bill back to the floor, which was the beginning of last week, where we, in a bipartisan way, would have that opportunity to offer amendments and attempt to improve or adjust or modify that bill. That is the process we are in the middle of right now.

I am pleased where we are today, but as I said 2 weeks ago or 3 weeks ago, we do need to complete this bill before the Memorial Day recess. Resuming consideration in the early part of last week, we have made real progress. And I do not know the exact number of amendments, but we have had amendments every day come to the floor for those up-or-down votes from both the Republican and the Democratic side of the aisle.

We allowed discussion and debate, and I think the country's understanding of this legislation, which is complex, has improved over the course of the several weeks we have had it on the floor. We are all looking closer at what is in the underlying bill, with the proposing of amendments to modify that, and having good debate—Democrat and Republican—on the issue.

The more time we spend with it, the more time we come to understand there are some very good things about the bill, things that still need some correction. And we will have the opportunity to do that, with the cloture motion filed tonight, over the course of voting in the morning, tomorrow afternoon, Wednesday over the course of the day, and once cloture is in effect, still have germane amendments come to the floor. So that process needs to continue. What it will do is allow us to complete that bill before Memorial Day.

We have had a number of amendments that have been interesting to watch as we have gone forward. Mr. SESSIONS, the Senator from Alabama, had an amendment early on to strengthen our southern border, to build those 370 miles of triple-layered fence, and 500 miles of vehicle barriers at strategic locations—a clear-cut improvement on the bill, strengthening the bill along the border consistent with our first priority; that is, to secure that border.

The Senate also approved the amendment by Senators KYL, GRAHAM, CORNYN, and ALLEN to close a loophole in the bill that would allow criminal aliens to obtain legal status. Once people looked at that, they said that is only common sense. Again, it became overwhelmingly supported in a bipartisan way—again, an important demonstration of why it was important to have open debate and amendment. That amendment clarifies that any illegal alien who is ineligible for a visa or who has been convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors is ineligible for a green card—again, just common sense.